

## BOOK REVIEW

WINTROBE, MAXWELL, M., LEE, G. RICHARD, BOGGS, DANE, R., BITHELL, THOMAS C., ATHENS, JOHN W., AND FOERSTER, JOHN: *Clinical Hematology*, seventh edition. Philadelphia, Lea and Febiger, 1974. xxiv + 1,896 pp. 543 illustrations. 24 color plates. \$35.00

IT is always a pleasure to see a new edition of Wintrobe's *Clinical Hematology*. For several decades this book has been the hematologist's dependable reference bible. The new seventh edition has been revised thoroughly and brought up to date by Dr. Wintrobe and his associates. Dr. Wintrobe has written this enlarged single volume in collaboration with some of his present and former associates who have special interests and have written on certain aspects of hematology in the past. The names of these authors are given on the title page; no one author is entirely responsible for a particular chapter. This arrangement appears to have a great advantage over the multiple-author approach that so often leads to repetition and overlapping.

The present edition would have been much easier to read and handle if it had been divided into two volumes. Because of the rapid development of hematology the authors have tried to control the size of the book, but without success. The present volume is not for lap reading and is impossible to read in bed. The bibliography is up to date and revised, but the print is now much smaller and more difficult to read. A number of chapters were given much more space than others, an indication of the author's interest in special fields, such as the leukocyte and the kinetics of iron. As a result, some of the clinical chapters are less effective than they could have been.

The paper stock is of good quality. The 24 color plates are excellently reproduced, with clear designations. The number of illustrations (543) and charts in the chapters has been greatly increased; this adds clarity to the discussions. The style of the book remains good. Detailed references are given in alphabetical order.

A minor error should be mentioned. On page 1,593 the survival of patients with reticulo-endothelial cell leukemia (hairy cell) is stated as four to six months, yet the latest references listed give a longer survival. This may be an author's oversight.

A welcome addition is an appendix in which blood dyscrasias associated with various drugs and chemicals are listed in alphabetical order and brought up to date. Normal values and other tabulated data are included in the

appendix, together with the bibliography of this information.

Dr. Wintrobe and his collaborators should be congratulated for the tremendous effort that they exerted to produce such an excellent volume. The book will be of great help as a work of reference for both internists and hematologists.

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